



Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2011

9:30 AM

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE TOWER

1st Floor Conference Room

1700 W. Washington Street

Phoenix, AZ 85007

A meeting of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission convened on March 17, 2011 at the Governor's Executive Tower, 1700 W. Washington Street, 1st Floor Conference Room Phoenix, AZ 85007. Present and absent were the following members:

Members Present		
Cecil Patterson, Jr.	Rob Lubitz	Tom Pickrell
Cindi Nannetti	Vada Jo Phelps	Tim Dunst
Merissa Amiri	Myrtle Young	Jane Kallal
Chad Campbell	Carol Hirschberg-James	June Willson
Guy Penns	James Molina	Chris Schopen
Alice Bustillo	Mike Branham	

Staff/Guests Present	Members Absent	
Christy Alonzo	Sammy Robinson	Jessica Hermann
Steve Selover	Xavier Cameron	Dennis Pickering
John Raeder	Nina White	Judy Tom
Cassandra A. Larsen	Shaun Rieve	Bob Brutinel
Beth Rosenberg	Helen Gandara	Robert Thomas
	Robert Duber	Derrick Johnson

A. Call to Order

Chairman Cecil Patterson called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. with seventeen (17) members, four (4) staff and one (1) guest present.

B. Welcome/Introductions

Chairman Patterson asked all present in the room to introduce themselves.

C. Approval of Minutes

Vada Jo Phelps moved to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2011 meeting as drafted by staff. Mike Branham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

D. “Improving Public Safety by Keeping Youth out of the Adult Criminal Justice System”

Christy Alonzo, Juvenile Justice Specialist, introduced Beth Rosenberg from Children’s Action Alliance to present on the “Improving Public Safety by Keeping Youth out of the Adult Criminal Justice System” report. Ms. Alonzo reminded Commission Members that transferred youth was part of their strategic plan.

Ms. Rosenberg gave an overview of the report, highlighting recommendations included in the report. A copy of the report was provided to all members.

E. Children’s Justice Update

John Raeder, Program Administrator for the Children’s Justice Act grant (CJ) introduced himself to Commission members. Mr. Raeder referenced a timeline for the CJ assessment that was provided to members at a previous meeting, noting that the timeline may have been a little aggressive. Mr. Raeder announced a more realistic start date for the assessment to begin is May 1, 2011.

Mr. Raeder noted he has researched assessments conducted by other states. He stated Connecticut recently concluded a thorough assessment which cost \$140,000 and included a best practice literature review, demographic make-up and available services in each jurisdiction as well as judicial investigation and response.

Mr. Raeder mentioned that given available funds to conduct this assessment, all components included in Connecticut’s assessment, will not be included in Arizona’s

A workgroup of Commission members with knowledge in Children’s Justice will be developed to assist in developing the scope of work for a 10-month assessment.

F. OJJDP Title II Update

1. 2009 Appeal

Ms. Alonzo reminded members of the notice of non-compliance with the DSO requirement the State received in September 2010 regarding 2009 compliance numbers, and the appeal made by the State. Ms. Alonzo mentioned additional correspondence requested by the Department of Justice, Office of Legal Counsel. Correspondence included requests for information including violations occurring in the San Carlos Apache Detention and Rehabilitation Center, as well as the number of alcohol violations. Additional information request was submitted in January 2011.

2. Commission’s Operating Budget

Ms. Alonzo highlighted possible expenditures from 2008, 2009, 2010 awards based on discussions from prior Commission meetings and upcoming events in line with the Commission’s strategic and 3-year plan, noting that both 2008 and 2009 awards expire

September 30, 2010. She also discussed possible expenditures for the 2011 award that will be included in the annual update to OJJDP at the end of March.

Ms. Alonzo stated that expenditures discussed today could be modified at a later date if needed and approved by the Commission.

Myrtle Young moved to approve the operating budgets for 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 as drafted, noting that expenses may be modified if approved by the Commission. June Willson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

G. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, 2010 Compliance Update

1. 2010 Preliminary Number

Steve Selover, Compliance Monitor, referred members to a handout included in their packet that outlines calendar year 2010's violation numbers and rates for each of the first three core requirements. He noted that a small amount of data has yet to be submitted, but should be submitted by the end of March.

Mr. Selover pointed out that with the exclusion of the San Carlos Apache Tribal violations, the deinstitutionalization of status offenders rate is at the lowest point in over 10 years.

2. Pinal County Visit

Mr. Selover reminded members of the significant increase in DSO violations occurring in Pinal County between 2009 and 2010. Mr. Selover and Ms. Alonzo met with the Presiding and Juvenile Judges, along with probation supervisors to discuss the increase. He noted that the judges were not fully aware of the differences between the federal act and State law, and the impact of the differences.

Both the judges and probation staff felt an alternative to detention/group home setting would greatly benefit the community as well as decrease adjudicated status offender violations, however given the limited resources in the community, planning and implementation of such programming may take some time. However, those in attendance felt that offering a program such as their HOPE program which is currently used for delinquent youth, would be easily replicated for status offending youth, and provide an option to judges. Pinal County reports that during their last fiscal year, 152 delinquent youth completed the HOPE program, and only 35 of those youth had a new referral within the first 6 months of completion, (70% did not re-offend).

3. Maricopa Status Offender Court

Ms. Alonzo informed members of the Commission that since the inception of the Status Offender Court, (funded by GOCYF), 190 youth have gone through the specialty court, with only three being held securely as a result of the appearance. She noted that these youth did have a Valid Court Order in place, therefore violations did not occur.

Ms. Alonzo also noted that the court has contracted with A New Leaf to provide services to youth and their families from the Status Offender Court.

The Planning and Grants Committee along with the full Commission will need to explore the idea of directing Maricopa's JABG dollars for 2011 or allow them to utilize it how they see fit in the near future.

H. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Annual Site Visit

Ms. Alonzo informed members that Tom Murphy, Arizona's State Representative from OJJDP will be conducting an annual site visit the week of April 4, 2011. She noted that this visit will focus on programs funded with OJJDP funds.

I. Proposed Juvenile Justice Budget by President Obama

Ms. Alonzo mentioned that President Obama's proposed budget includes reducing juvenile justice funds from \$130 million to \$120 million, and eliminates all formula awards to states, making the entire allocation discretionary. Additionally, the proposal suggests that states must be in compliance with all four requirements of the JJDP Act, but does not provide dollars for states to track, and/or ensure compliance.

She noted that the Coalition on Juvenile Justice (CJJ) drafted a two tiered approach and has met with White House staff to discuss. CJJ's proposal includes maintaining juvenile justice funds at \$130 million, providing \$75 million in formula grants to the states and utilizing the remaining funds as discretionary funds.

J. Call to the Public

No call from the public was made.

K. Adjourn

Chairman Patterson adjourned the meeting at 11:25 am.

*The next meeting of the Arizona Juvenile Justice Commission is Thursday,
May 19, 2011 at 9:30 am*